

response to it in the Congressional Record during consideration of S. 384 on the House floor. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr.,
Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
Washington, DC, March 14, 2005.

Hon. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Judiciary Committee's jurisdictional interest in S. 384, a bill to extend the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group.

I agree that the Committee on the Judiciary does not waive its jurisdiction over S. 384 or similar bills by waiving further consideration of this bill. I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your cooperation as we work towards the enactment of S. 384.

Sincerely,

TOM DAVIS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
March 11, 2005.

Hon. TOM DAVIS,
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to the consideration of S. 384, a bill to extend the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group. The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has a jurisdictional interest in S. 384.

In the interests of moving this important legislation forward, I do not intend to ask for sequential referral of this bill. However, I do so only with the understanding that this procedural route should not be construed to prejudice the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's jurisdictional interest over this bill or any similar bill and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to the Committee in the future.

Finally, I would ask that you include a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during the House debate on S. 384. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

PETER HOEKSTRA,
Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 14, 2005.

Hon. PETER HOEKSTRA,
Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Capitol Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your recent letter regarding the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's jurisdictional interest in S. 384, a bill to extend the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group.

I agree that the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence does not waive its jurisdiction over S. 384 or similar bills by waiving further consideration of this bill. I will include a copy of your letter and this re-

sponse in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your cooperation as we work towards the enactment of S. 384.

Sincerely,

TOM DAVIS,
Chairman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 384, a bill extending the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group for two years. This crucial legislation amends the Japanese Imperial Government Disclosure Act of 2000 to extend from four to six years the existence of the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group. H.R. 842 extends by two years this worthy working group, which was originally created by Congress through Public Law 105-246 in 1998. The group is made up of government agency representatives who are directed to oversee the declassification of U.S. Government records that contain information about Nazi war crimes.

Such information includes trafficking of assets seized by the Nazis and post-war communications between U.S. Government and former Nazi officials, unless declassification would unduly violate personal privacy or harm national security or foreign policy interests. The law also allowed for expedited processing of Freedom of Information, requests made by survivors of the Holocaust.

On December 6, 2000, as part of the Intelligence Authorization Act for 2001, Congress changed the group's name to the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group. This action expanded the mission of the group to include the declassification of U.S. Government records related to World War II-era war crimes committed by the Japanese Imperial government.

Madam Speaker, the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group is a valuable effort that informs the American people of the actions of their government while balancing the protection of legitimate national secrets.

I support this noble effort so that we can continue to confront this dark chapter in American History.

The vicious and barbaric war crimes committed by the Nazis, and the atrocities committed by the Japanese Imperial Government during World War II, were some of the worse criminal acts of the 20th century. Both of these historical crimes against humanity must be studied and chronicled in their entirety. The acts of barbarism and genocide committed by the German Nazi and Japanese Imperial governments should never be forgotten. Therefore, it is up to the elected representatives of the American people to ensure that the United States Government complies completely with the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group and makes accessible all information that is allowable by law.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from

Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 384.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, MARCH 31, 2005, TO FILE REPORT ON OVERSIGHT PLANS

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform have until midnight, March 31, 2005, to file a Report on Oversight Plans under clause 2 of rule X.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 135, by the yeas and nays;
H. Res. 101, by the yeas and nays; and
S. 384, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE COMMISSION RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 135.